

Elderberry

Sambucus cerulea

Common Names: Blue elder, sweet elder, elder flower, elder blows

Species Affected: Sheep, Cattle, Pigs

Toxin: Cyanogenic glycoside, cathartic

Description:

Elderberry grows as a woody shrub that can reach up to 12 feet tall. Leaves grow opposite on the stem with one leaf on the top of the stem, there will be 5 to 7 toothed leaflets. The berries grow in drooping clusters and are usually a purple or red.

Growing Location and Timing :

Elderberry produces white flowers in the summer, purple to black berries in the fall, and loses its foliage in the winter. Elderberry can be found growing in moist soils, mainly in wooded areas.

Affects on Livestock:

Affects can be gastrointestinal issues as well as respiratory issues and death.

Signs and Symptoms:

Symptoms of elderberry poisoning can be nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and colic. Issues with breathing and an elevated respiratory rate may occur.

Preventative Measures:

Remove livestock from areas with elderberry present, if signs and symptoms occur treat for cyanide poisoning.

